The abandonment office trade was as easily taken for granted as the abandonment of the Gold Standard had been. Attempts to revive the strong feelings which the Tariff Reform controversy had once aroused, signally failed. If no cry went up, as some Liberals had predicted it would, from an electorate tricked into accepting a hated imposition, nor were there any signs of the elation which Lord Beaverbrook and others expected. Writers of parliamentary sketches did their best to present as historic the occasion on which the Chancellor of the Exchequer laid before the House of Commons legislation instituting a general ten per cent tariff on all imports, with certain specified exceptions; a note of deep emotion, they wrote, came into Mr. Chamberlain's ordinarily dry voice when he remarked that his father would doubtless have been gratified to know that the protectionist legislation he had so strenuously advocated was to be introduced by one son and in the presence of another. If this deep emotion really did come into his voice, it may be assumed to have stayed there, since it was apparent nowhere else.

With tariffs settled, the Government was urged to revert to its first cause, economy. When Lear consented to reduce his retainers to fifty, it was not long before he was asked to content himself with twenty-five. The economies made in Snowden's emergency budget were all very well, it was argued, but no more than a beginning. Virtue should be persisted in if the National Government was to deserve the praise which had already been bestowed upon it. Various proposals were made

for realising further economies in public expenditure; among them one for the imposition of a Means Test, to be applied to recipients of unemployment benefit. 'The financial saving/ *The Times* wrote of this proposal, 'will be great, and the tonic to public opinion will be strengthening/ As a slight palliative to the squeamish, it suggested that Needs Test more aptly described what was intended than Means Test, and drew attention to an instance, 'rightly described by Our Correspondent as sinister/ in which a family of five were in receipt of no less than 695. a week unemployment benefit. A strengthening tonic in the shape